

EXHIBIT # 4  
DATE 3/10/15  
SB 284

Senator John Brenden,

The Fergus County Commissioners would like to go on record in support of SB 284. Unfortunately we are unable to make the hearing tomorrow 3/10/15.

We applaud your efforts for considering county commissioners having a say in the transplanting or relocating of bison/buffalo in our counties. We have long been run over by outside interest groups flooding agencies with comments that outnumber our local residence voices in the decision making processes. We feel this is a good bill for a number of reasons:

It does not take away any opportunities to transplant or relocate bison on tribal lands.

It gives the same authority to commissioners that tribal governments are afforded before bison are Transplanted or relocated.

It would give the county commissioners the authority to enter into a MOU with the requesting governmental agencies before bison were to be transplanted or relocated.

In closing we would like to add a couple comments from the Senate hearing. The question was brought up to us about who would be liable if the bison got out and caused damage or injury. Normally if there was nothing in writing the FWP would say they were wildlife and the liability would be the same as one hitting a deer on the road or wildlife getting into hay yards. If we were going to allow bison in our county these issues of liability would clearly be defined in an MOU.

We heard testimony about how commissioners are not range specialist or scientist and should not be managing bison/buffalo. **We do not want to manage the bison, we only want a say in where they are to be managed. If we were to allow bison in our county we would want a say in the issues that could result from management.**

Thank you

Fergus County Commissioners Sandy Youngbauer, Ross Butcher, Carl Seilstad

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